

FLOOD COLLECTING FOR COLEOPTERA

by O. L. Cartwright
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Beetles in surprising numbers may sometimes be collected by taking advantage of rising flood waters. The advancing water sweeps up all kinds of insects and carries them along on twigs, leaves, and other floating debris. If a mass of such material can be located slowly rotating or piling up in a quiet eddy along the edge of a stream, it can be scooped up, rolled in an old sheet or piece of canvas to dry out and the beetles easily captured. As the mass dries the beetles gradually crawl downward to the cloth where by rolling the material from side to side, specimens may be found every day for as much as a week or more, or until it is completely dry.

For example, on March 30, 1944 two bushels of debris were collected at Clemson, South Carolina from the Seneca river and over the next few days hundreds of specimens were found. Carabidae, Staphylinidae, Elateridae, Chrysomelidae, Scarabaeidae and weevils were most numerous. Of the Scarabaeidae, the family of greatest interest to the writer, 42 species were taken, two of which were represented by over 1000 specimens each.

NOTES ON SOME OREGON CANTHARIDAE

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In years past, the common species of Cantharidae in the northern Oregon Coast Range have been Podabrus piniphilus (Esch.), Podabrus cavicollis LeC., Silis pallida Mann., Malthodes humidus Fend. and Malthodes oregonus Fend. Podabrus extricatus Fall has always been a rare catch and Silis lutea LeC. unknown to the author north of Corvallis.

This spring (1947) has been quite mild and unusually nice in northwestern Oregon. Podabrus cavicollis and the Malthodes have only begun to emerge and no real report can as yet be given on these species, but Podabrus extricatus has turned up more frequently than has Podabrus piniphilus and Silis lutea is the only species of the genus taken up to the time of writing. Both of these species have appeared in fair abundance in the foothills west of McMinnville, some forty miles north of Corvallis.